

Unified Command News Release
PACIFIC PIPELINES/PYRAMID LAKE OIL SPILL
DATE: March 25, 2005 TIME: 6:00 P.M.

Oil spill clean-up underway on Pyramid Lake

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Dept. of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), and Pacific Energy Partners (PEP) have formed a unified command to direct the response to Wednesday's spill of crude oil into Pyramid Lake, in Angeles National Forest. The spill occurred when a landslide broke the pressurized pipeline that carries crude oil from Bakersfield to refineries in Wilmington.

"Pacific Pipelines is committed to cleaning this up as quickly and safely as possible," said Art Diefenbach, incident coordinator for PEP.

The oil on the lake is contained in the cove at the end of Posey Canyon, where it is being removed. Clean-up operations required the closure of Pyramid Lake Recreation Area, and access ramps to the Vista Del Lago Visitor Center from I-5. The Center is being used as a command post for the spill response. CHP has closed the right lanes of I-5 in both directions, near the clean-up site in Posey Canyon. For alternate recreational opportunities, the public may call Angeles National Forest at (626) 574-5200.

PEP hired Advanced Cleanup Technology Inc. to do the actual oil removal work. At this time, there are 8,700 feet of boom, three barge skimmers, one drum skimmer, six brush skimmers, nine boats, two vacuum trucks, and four storage tanks deployed. Over 100 personnel are working in the response operation. At this time, 11,060 gallons of a mixture of approximately 90 percent oil and 10 percent water have been removed.

There has been no evidence that the region's drinking water has been affected by the oil spill, and no oiled wildlife has been observed.

Other agencies participating in the spill response include the US Forest Service, US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service; California Highway Patrol, State Fire Marshal, California Office of Emergency Services, Dept. of Water Resources, CalTrans, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff.

The first responders to the landslide and spill were from the local Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff Department.

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Report All Oil Spills to: 800-OILS-911